

Longacre's Ledger

The Journal of The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors' Society
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*The 1858 Small Letters
Flying Eagle Cent
By Richard Snow*



*Anthony Paquet's
Small Eagle
By Richard Snow*



*Clash Marks on 1857
Flying Eagle Cent
By Richard Snow*



*Something New
By Richard Snow*

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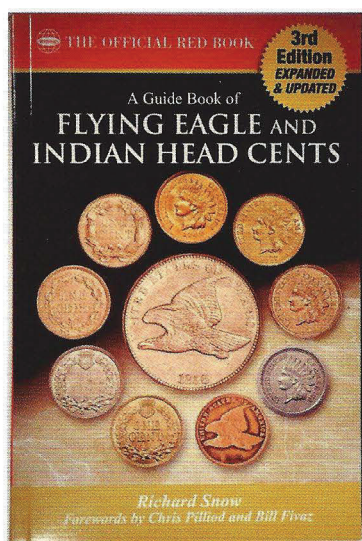
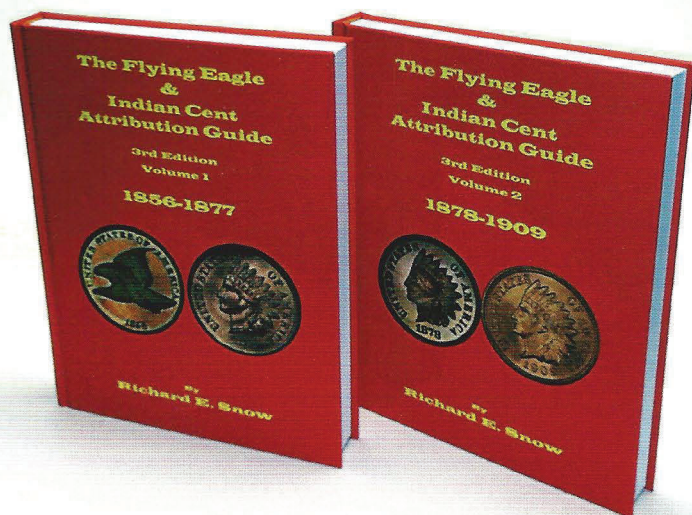
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The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors' Society

Our mission is to gather and disseminate information related to
James B. Longacre (1794-1869), with emphasis on his work as
Chief Engraver of the Mint (1844 -1869) with a primary focus on his
Flying Eagle and Indian Cent coinage.

Founded 1991

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Vice President	Tim Cartwright	tcartwright@floratine.com
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Editor.....	Rick Snow	rick@indiancent.com
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The following individuals have indicated their willingness to help promote the club and its activities in their state.

Arizona.....	Rick Snow	rick@indiancent.com
California	Charmy Harker	charmy@thepennylady.com
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On the cover...

Assistant Engraver Anthony Paquet's Small Eagle design for the obverse of the 1858 pattern cents.

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2017 Vol. 27.3 Issue #101

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Editor: Rick Snow

P.O. Box 32891 Tucson, AZ 85751

(866) 323-2646

rick@indiancent.com

rick@indiancent.com

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- ✓ You may also send files and images on a CD-W disk or other storage device to the editor's address below. Storage devices will be returned upon request.
- ✓ Images of material can be made by the editor for use in the Journal. Please include the necessary return postage with the submission.
- ✓ Please feel free to contact the editor if you have any questions.

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Special thanks to Charmy Harker
for proofreading the articles.

The President's Letter

By Chris Pilliod

This is my 59th President's letter and another year has passed ever so quickly. I often reflect on the past year and summarize my numismatic accomplishments. These may fall in the category of a unique or choice addition to my cabinet, some pioneering research in a specific field, or a presentation that wowed a coin club or coin show gathering. Often times at the end of the year it is an acquisition that I would have never dreamed of purchasing a year prior. Or a revelation in numismatic research. Or some odd or unique token or exonomic piece.

This year I look back and without any doubt the most eye-opening revelation was highlighted through some joint research I did with fellow Fly-In Club member David Finkelstein. One of the resultant take-aways was the tremendous care and pride the early Mint workers had in their product, including the years through the Indian cent series. And although this particular discussion predates Longacre's tenure, it relates to the great execution of detail and pride exhibited during the Indian Cent series, as well as a textbook example of conducting proper research.

David is a full time dealer with a deep love for 18th and 19th Century coinage, including the Indian Cent series. But he also possesses one of the most voracious appetites of anyone I know for researching early United States coinage. He's in the Big Leagues when it comes to unraveling the unknowns of our nation's Mints. Three or four times a year he travels to Center City Philadelphia and the National Archives and Records Administration and, once set up, he walks to the end of the diving board and takes a deep plunge through the Mint's archival records.

The first step in his protocol is clearing out his memory discs on his digital camera. Why? Because he literally spends his entire time taking photos of every log book from the United States Mint. Turn the page—click, turn the page—click, turn the page—click. Don't bother reading them. That can wait until he gets back home in Michigan. Several times I have asked him what he enjoys more—buying a wonderful coin or doing research. "Both" he always says, "are equally exiting."

So it was earlier this year when he approached me with something very curious he had uncovered in reading the Mint's records from 1795. On the 27th

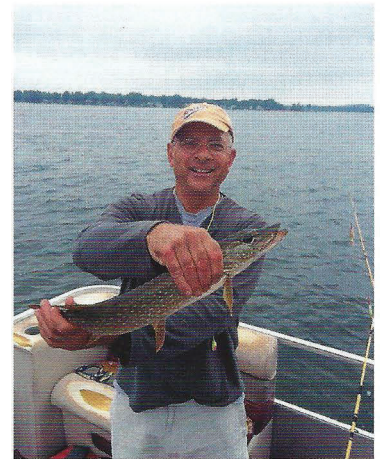
of October in 1795 Mint Director Henry Wm. De Saussure in his report to President George Washington explained that the Mint standard for silver fineness in such coins had been arbitrarily and without Congressional approval amended from the lawful 0.8924 silver fineness to 0.9000 fine-

ness. Although not stated precisely in writing, the change was driven by a simple reason—to facilitate the math. Imagine the number of abacuses those guys must have burned through balancing a charge of silver out to 0.8924 parts. Weighing 9 parts silver and one part copper or .9000 fineness is sooo much easier. De Saussure was so concerned about the change and its legalities he pleaded his case to insure none of his workers would face any legal action.

So our first interchange started me off basically dismissing his intentions. David asked me "Can you analyze some old silver coins and tell if they are 89.24% silver or 90.00% silver?"

"Gosh," I replied "I am not sure we can with any level of confidence. And for damn sure it doesn't matter because the Mint in 1795 could not produce silver coinage to that inconsequential difference." "Dave," I continued with enthusiasm, "imagine if horses could run at an Indy Car speed. It would be akin to someone telling me that in 1795 the Mint had technology to measure the difference of a horse-drawn carriage travelling at 222 mph versus one traveling at 224 mph... if they had horse steroids back then."

So I let the postulate die. After a couple months David came back with the same exact inquiry. Damn, I thought, I can't get rid of this guy. At that point I shared with him the results I found when I indeed actually analyzed early silver coinage non-destructively. And that there is essentially no method to obtain accurate or highly quantifiable results from analyzing the surface of a 200-year old silver coin. The copper depletes near surface due to the large difference in corrosion resistance. So at best the most information obtainable would be essentially "is there silver and



copper present?" Not exactly how much of each. Sadly I had to inform him the only slim chance we would have is to sacrifice a coin—cut it up and measure the silver content internally, far away from the surface heavily affected by the environment. I was sure this would kill any continued interest. He looked at me and said "OK, let's do it."

"Whattttt?" I yelled back. I stared at him for quite some time before finally uttering, "you want to cut up silver Half Dollars from 1795 just for this??? Are you crazy???"

"Nope. Not crazy. Let's do it."

And that's where the research goes from skeptical to fascinating. And as we sit we are in the middle of this project and as we progress through this elaborate and meticulous research it does indeed become apparent that yes, perhaps the early Mint did indeed have the procedures in place to produce coining silver to very tight tolerances, and could possibly even discriminate between .8924 fineness and .9000 fineness. So we are in the middle of trying to solve an improbable riddle... "Is it even remotely possible the early Mint had in place all the technology, the procedures, equip-

ment, and capability to produce coining silver with a difference in fineness between .8924 and .9000???" Initially we simply ran a quick nondestructive chemistry on the surface of a 1795 Bust Half Dollar and not surprisingly it returned a value way too low in copper content. Then the autopsy really kicked in. The next step was gutting a 1795 Bust Half Dollar and sending the sectioned piece shown in the photograph to one of the best labs in the world outside Chicago, Illinois. We have the results of the testing with more on its way. And all I can say is if they could, it's been extremely eye-opening.

Finkelstein's original premise is now maybe not looking so crazy. Consider how extremely fastidious the Mint was with controlling planchette weight—individually weighing each piece on a balance beam scale prior to striking, and if heavy silver was removed and in some rare cases if the planchet was light a heavier plug was added prior to striking. What the heck, if they were that hellbent on nailing down the weight - maybe just maybe they wanted to control the composition that critically as well. We're gonna find out. (Stay tuned for the answer.)



Center of 1795 Half Dollar.

Fast forward to the Indian Cent series. By then cent production was well past its infancy and mintages were well into the millions. So one would think care and pride would have diminished. But in gleaning the Mint annals nothing could be further from the truth. A tremendous amount of thought and energy went into the artistry, alloy design, sizing and other public considerations when the Flying Eagle and Indian Cents were introduced.

While the days of painstaking dialog about whether the Mint added a few too many flecks of silver were long over, quality control was still a major incentive. The fact that errors in the Indian Cent are much more abundant than in early US coinage is less a matter of quality control as it is in sheer numbers. If you only shoot five free throws and miss one you have erred only once. But if you shoot 100 at the same percentage you have made 20 errors. Likewise with the difference in mintages between the eras.

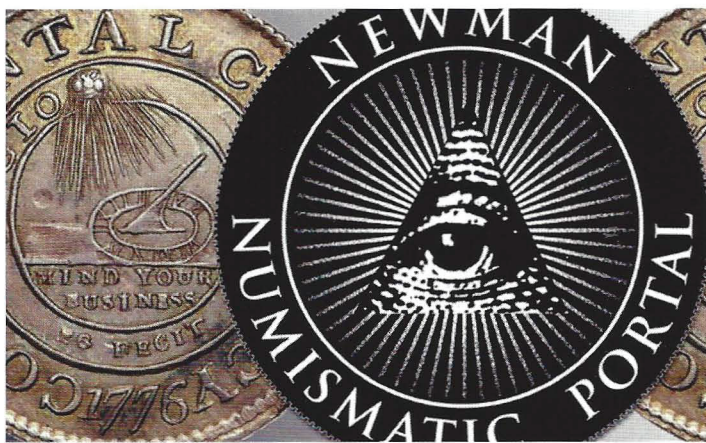
One result of not weighing each planchet is the opportunity for underweight or overweight coins. Years ago a dealer friend in a warm gesture gave me an Indian cent error which I put away and haven't laid eyes on for at least 15 years now. It is an original MS64 1863 Copper-Nickel Indian Cent with blooming luster and original surfaces, and by all accounts looks normal by every visual standard. Until you weigh it. It weighs only 3.15 grams versus a Mint standard of 4.67 grams. It is only two-thirds of the standard weight. Not surprisingly some of the features are weakly struck due to its thinness. My theory is that a small amount of strip was rolled to 25c gauge instead of copper-nickel cent gauge and only a handful of blanks were cut before the error was observed. And with the days of weighing each blank individually being long gone this one escaped notice.



1863 Thin Planchet Error.



Thin Planchet and Normal thickness.



The back issues of the Longacre's Ledger are now accessible on the Newman Numismatic Portal. The site is managed by the Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Access is free to all and the files can be viewed at the following link:

<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/521577>

Special thanks to Len Augsburg for working on this.

Presidents letter continued....

Finally I would like on behalf of the club to extend a warm posthumous and HUGE "Thank You!!!" to the late Eric P. Newman who last month sent a check in the amount of \$5,000 to the club. Attached with the check was this letter:

"Dear Chris,

In the spirit of Thanksgiving and to honor the field that was a life-long source of joy and discovery for Eric P. Newman, we are making a number of gifts to organizations dedicated to the study of numismatics. Enclosed is our check for \$5,000 as a one-time donation to the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collector's Society. Your organization's work and membership are exactly what Eric would want to encourage. On his behalf, we urge you to carry the torch of collecting and scholarship forward in the years ahead. Thank you for all you are doing for numismatics."

Sincerely,
Andrew Newman

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The 1858 Small Letters Flying Eagle Cent

By Richard Snow



1858 Small Letters obverse



Low Leaves - Type of 1858



High Leaves - Type of 1857

By 1858 it was clear that there was a problem with James Longacre's 1857 Flying Eagle design. The high relief of the design required a strong strike to get the hard nickel alloy to fill the dies. Too many dies were wearing out quickly. It was reasoned that if the relief was lowered then the life of the dies might be extended.

Assistant Engraver Anthony C. Paquet was the likely person tasked with the redesign. The distinctive small letters logotype is similar to the style used on medals that Paquet prepared around this time¹. The eagle is also a lower relief and is of a slightly different style. However, the design is still credited to Longacre.

Along with the Small Letters design, Paquet also submitted an entirely different eagle with an even lower relief, known today as the "Small Eagle" design. Longacre contributed a portrait of Lady Liberty wearing an Indian headress. Lower relief reverse designs were also made by Longacre and Paquet and sets of each of the design combinations were made. An internal competition grew out of the desire for a solution of the die life problem. With three obverse designs and four reverse designs, sets of 12-piece patterns were made.

The "Agricultural" wreath was the reverse design in use from the beginning of the Flying Eagle coinage. It was taken from Longacre's three dollar gold coin of 1854. A new low relief version is called

the Low Leaves variant as the easiest differentiation with the earlier design are the inner leaves by the C & T of CENT being lower than on the High Leaves design. This may have also been the work of Paquet, but is traditionally attributed to Longacre. Additional designs made by Paquet and Longacre include an Oak wreath, Ornamental shield and Laurel wreath.

As the coin collecting craze was super hot in 1858, the Mint decided to cash in on the frenzy and sold these pattern sets to the public.

When the pattern cent sets were struck, the 1858 Small Letter / Low Leaves die pair was just another one of the patterns produced, but as this design was chosen to be put into regular production right away, these 75 proof pieces automatically changed from being patterns to being regular issue proofs. Along with other die pairs that proved popular, additional examples were struck. Likely as many as 150 examples were made. The Proof 1858 Small Letters is also known paired with a High Leaves reverse, but in a very limited number, less than 10 are known today.

It is unknown exactly when the Small Letters dies were first used in regular production. From the quantity seen, about equal to the Large Letter obverse, we assume the Mint introduced them mid-year. This would put the estimated mintage at 12,300,000, one-half the total for the year. The Low Leaves dies were introduced about the same time as the Small Letters obverse. Any high relief (High Leaves) reverse dies on hand would have been used until they were gone. As a result, the Small Letters obverse is paired with both

¹ 1859 Snowdon Medal; 1860 Washington Cabinet of Medal; 1860 Japan Embassy Medal.

High Leaves and Low Leaves reverses. The former are very scarce and constitute only about 10% of examples seen on Small Letter coins.

With the new dies, the Mint could lower the striking pressure. As a result, the Small Letters design are more often seen with weak strikes than the Large Letters. For some reason, Small Letter cents are also more often seen with strike-doubling. Strike-doubling is apparent doubling usually seen on the outer devices like the legend and date. Many collectors have been fooled into thinking that the doubling they see on the letters is a new unlisted doubled die variety. An easy way to attribute strike-doubling from a doubled die is to check the date. Small Letter dies were hubbed with the eagle and letters together in a single step and only later was the date stamped onto the die. Similar doubling on both the date and letters would be highly unlikely. On a doubled die, only the eagle and letters would be doubled. On a repunched date, only the date would have doubling.

The smaller lettering style was prone to breaking on the hub. We see the U in UNITED with a broken inner serif on some dies. We see the second S in STATES deteriorate as well. We see dies that have been reworked. Some dies show reworking on the S by the individual "S" punch.



Strike-doubling

The Low Leaves reverse was designed with the ONE CENT very shallow in the die. Some dies were not sunk deep enough and the ONE CENT had to be strengthened. This caused doubled dies where the only doubling is on these letters.

These doubled dies are minor in that they don't encompass the whole design. It is interesting to see where Mint had to touch-up the dies. Clearly they had trouble with the design. It is no wonder that by the end of the year the design was scrapped in favor of the Indian head / Laurel wreath from the pattern competition.

Cataloging the varieties for the Small Letters is challenging in that the reverse style (High Leaves or Low Leaves) must be identified. A variant is known for the Low Leaves dies. It is believed that the Open E was found to be too shallow and most were reworked with the closed E letters. The E in ONE on some is wide open while on most the E is almost closed. The Wide open E is identified as a Type 3 design, with Type 1 being the High Leaves reverse and the Type 2 the Low Leaves, E almost closed.

In the Attribution Guide, I follow the traditional convention of listing obverse dies by number and reverse dies by letter. The reverse die letters must be sequential within their style group but also need to include those paired with the Large Letter obverses. It can be very confusing.

Much of the work that went into organizing the Small Letters varieties was done while attempting to assemble a complete die variety set. The owner of the set, Dr. Tom Fore, was especially intent on getting the listing and attributions correct. From 2000 through 2012 he was constantly helping with new varieties. Many of Tom's coins are now in the collection of Doug Wright. Doug is another passionate collector who sees the 1858 Small Letter as a wonderful set and is intent on getting things right. Doug recently lent me his collection to assist in attributing them correctly and the result is the present article.

The Small Letters really is a one-year type coin and should be included in all but the most basic type sets. For date sets, it is really more than just a single entry for all but the most basic collections. I think all serious date collectors should have a SL / High Leaves and a SL / Low Leaves. Beyond that, you may try an acquire the variety set. Most of the varieties are minor and hard to precisely attribute correctly. To fix that, a full updated variety list is included.

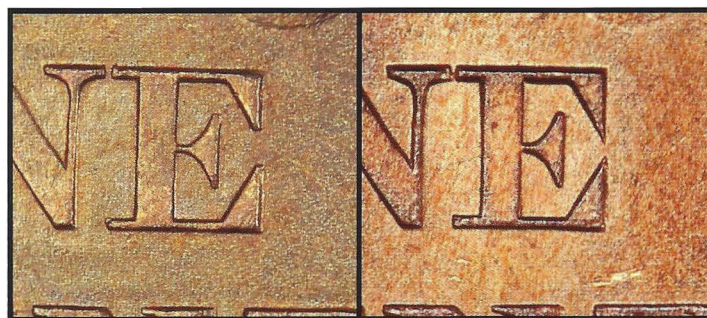


Snow-2. Broken U hub, Reworked UNITED S__T__S __AMER__

The multitude of reworked dies make the series very interesting. The Snow-2 above has some of the letters of the legend reworked while others are left alone. In AMERICA the AMER is strong and sharp while the ICA shows extreme die wear.



Extra Outlines.



Open E (Type 3)

Closed E (Type 2)

Some dies that are hubbed deeply show extra outlines around the letters and wreath. Extra outlines are shoulders around the devices on the hub. Remember that the hub is a positive of the design. Around the devices the shelves extend into the field area slightly. The fields are then sculpted out so they do not impress into the die at all. These extra outlines can be used to identify dies. They do not have extra value by themselves normally.

Snow-1 18/18 (n), RPD-001,
Low Leaves, DDR-010



Snow-1: Obv 3. (B) 18/18 (n).



Snow-1: Rev T2-C. DDR

A very scarce variety. The obverse has two die states. Stage A has no rim break under the 18. Stage B has a bold rim break under the 18. It also has a die break from the rim at 9:00 to the eagle's left wing.

There is also a minor reworking of the reverse die, which qualifies as a doubled die. It shows very minor doubling on the NE of ONE, mostly on the right side of the stand of the E. The denticles are thinner on the right side.

Only three are presently known. These are estimated prices.

MS64	Stage A	\$3,000 - \$5,000
MS63	Stage B	\$2,000 - \$3,000
XF40	Stage B	\$250 - \$500

As a 2-star variety in the Attribution Guide it would list at double the price of a regular date, but I think it might be a bit higher now since very few have come to light.

**Snow-2 1858 SL, High Leaves.
Enhanced Letters.**



***Snow-2: Obv 18 (RE),
Enhanced UNITED S _ T _ S _ AMER _ _.***

There is evidence of reworking of a few of the letters of the legend, but not all. The eagle also looks like it was reimpresed into the die. The UNITED is fully repunched. Only the S, T and final S is repunched. The AMER of AMERICA is repunched.

The letters that are not repunched show extreme die wear and the repunched letter are crisp and bold. This is the broken U hub.



Snow-2: Rev T1-O, High Leaves.

This is cataloged as a reworked die and is similar to all the other reworked dies found for the 1858 Small letters dies.

It is a 2-star variety and with the High Leaves reverse should get a good premium.

MS65 \$7,500 - \$10,000

The original listing for S2 was delisted as a duplicate of S1, in an early die state.

Snow-3 Low Leaves, DDR-001

This is the first DDR identified for the 1858 Small Letters. It was found by Larry Steve. At the time, it was unknown how many reworked dies existed. The small die chip on the N is the easiest diagnostic. The image is still black and white and needs to be updated. One hasn't been in my hands to be reimaged for 15 years. The obverse is identified by die crack that connects the eagle's tail with the rim at 3:30.

The obverse is labeled as Obv. 5: (LE) and has a die crack that connects the eagle's tail with the rim at 3:30.

This and all reworked reverse dies are listed as doubled dies and are given a 1-star rating. Only two examples are presently known.

MS65 \$3,000 - \$4,000

MS63 \$1,000 - \$1,500



Snow-3: Rev T2-D, DDR-001.

Snow-4 1/1 (ne), RPD-002, Low Leaves, Open E.



Snow-4: Obv 6 (B), 1/1 (ne).



Snow-4: Rev. T3-D.

This is a very scarce variety and one well worth looking out for. The repunching is between the 1 and the 8. Only a few have been found. It is a 2-star variety so premiums should be significant.

The reverse is a Type 3 - Open E reverse.

MS65	\$5,000 - \$7,500
MS62	\$2,500 - \$3,500
AU50	\$500 - \$1,000



Snow 4: 1/1 (ne), RPD-002

Snow-5 Low Leaves, DDR-003



*Snow-5a: Obv. 13 (LE).
Die file marks under date.*



*Snow-5a: Rev. T2-J.
Extra outlines 12:00 to 7:00.*



*Snow-5b: Obv. 7: (B).
Die crack from date to denticles at 7:00.*



*Snow-5b: Rev. T2-J.
Late die state: Rim Breaks.*



*Snow-5b: Rev. T2-J.
Doubling at the base of ON and right side of E.*

This is another reworked die. The doubling is more evident than on many of the other dies. It is seen with two obverse dies. The later die state reverse has extensive rim breaks, or "cuds." These may develop in stages that are not yet documented.

It is a 1-star variety and examples may not get a premium in higher grades as the grade premium may be greater than the variety premium.

MS65	\$3,000 - \$4,000
MS64	\$1,650 - \$2,000
MS63	\$1,000 - \$1,300
AU50	\$300 - \$500

Snow-6 Doubled S, Low Leaves



*Snow-6: Obv. 8: (RH).
Doubled Second S.*



*Snow-6: Rev. T2-Q.
Ribbon end connected to the denticles.*

Only the second S is repunched. The initial S was sunk with a broken S and then corrected. This is very minor and as a 1-star variety should not get too much of a premium.

This same obverse is used on S14. It is given a new variety number because the reverse has an additional variety. Also compare this with S10 and S13, which are very similar.

Grades known are MS65, MS64 and XF40.

MS65 \$3,000 - \$4,000

MS64 \$1,650 - \$2,000

XF40 \$100 - \$300



*Snow-6: Obv. 8: (RH).
Doubled Second S.*

Snow-7 Doubled UNIT, DDO-001. High Leaves.



*Snow-7 Obv. 8: (LH)
Doubling on the tops of UNITED.*

Submitted long ago by Don Curry and none have been seen since. It must be very rare as such. It is a 2-star variety and that might be raised to a 3-star if presented with another example in high grade. The discovery coin is an AU50.

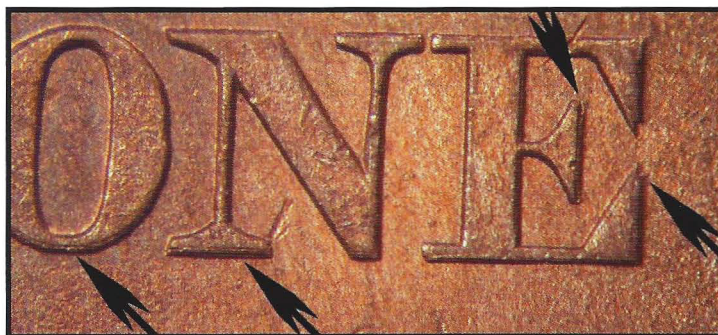
The reverse is a High Leaves (Rev. T1-K), which adds a premium as well.

AU50 \$1,000 - \$2,500

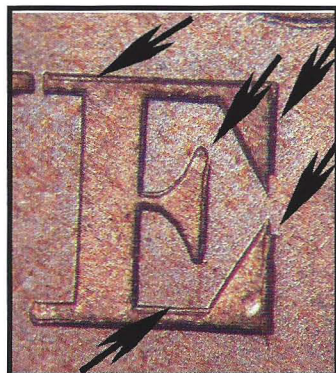
Comparisons of the Reworked E reverses.



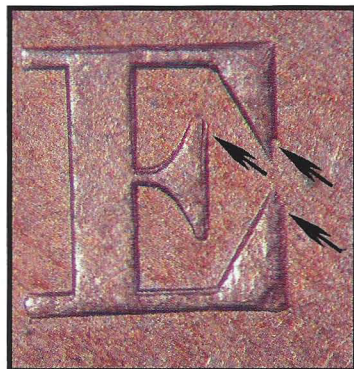
Snow-3



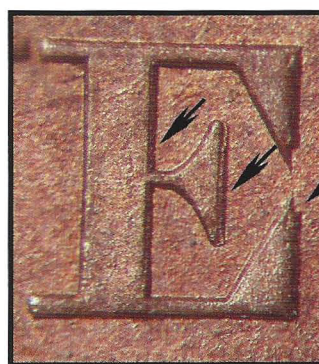
Snow-5



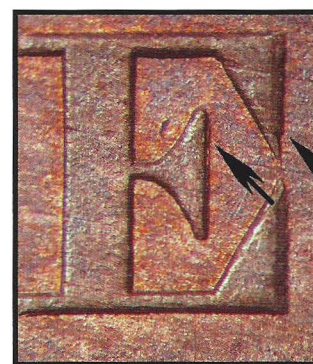
Snow-8, S-14



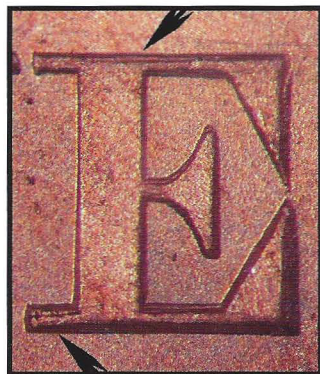
Snow-9



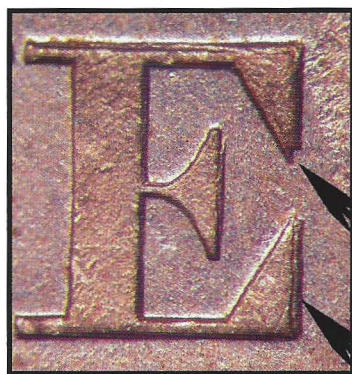
Snow-10



Snow-11



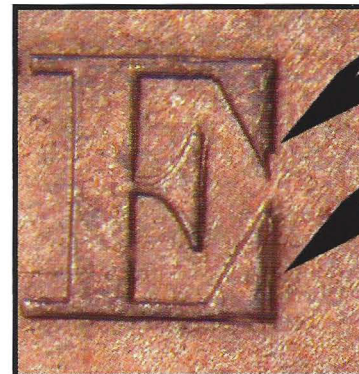
Snow-12



Snow-15



Snow-17



Snow-18

**Snow-8 Doubled Second S.
Low Leaves, DDO-004**



Snow-8: Obv. 9: (LH). Doubled S



*Snow 8: Rev. T2-L: Doubling on E in ONE.
Late Die State.*

This is a minor reworked reverse die. The extra outlines are minor. Compare the image with S11 and S12. This reverse is also used on S14 in an earlier die state. Late die states have a die crack by the date and rim breaks on the reverse.

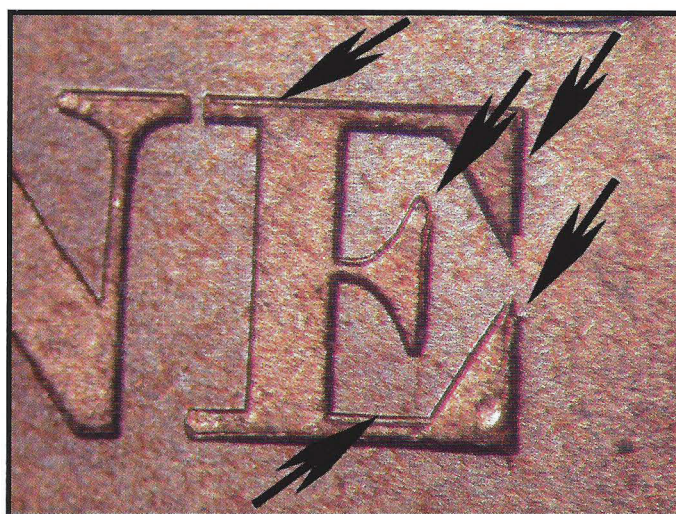
The obverse shows minor reworking of the final S in STATES. This is a one star variety so there wouldn't be much of a premium on coins above MS64 as there premium for the grade is greater. The condition census is 65, 65, 64. it is likely fairly common due to the existence of multiple die states.

MS65 \$3,000 - \$4,000

MS64 \$1,650 - \$2,000

MS63 \$1,000 - \$1,300

AU50 \$300 - \$500



Snow 8: Rev. T2-L: Doubling on E in ONE.



Snow 8: Obv. 9: Reworked final S in STATES.



*Snow 8: Obv. 9: Date area.
Die crack from date to rim.*

Snow-9 Low Leaves, DDR-005



Snow 9: Obv. 10: (B) Broken tops of both S's

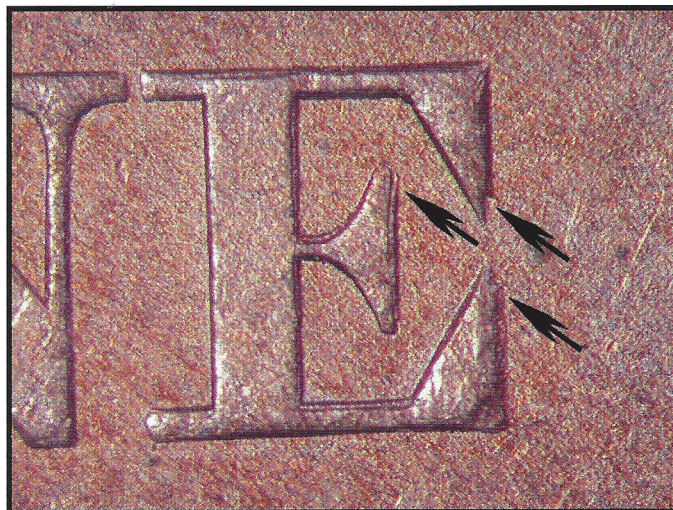


Snow 9: Rev. T2-M. Doubling on E in ONE.

Another reworked reverse. The doubling is visible on the right of all the serifs. Both of the S in STATES show breakage and this hub deterioration was not fixed.

This is a fairly minor variety and should not get a large premium in the grades above MS64.

MS65	\$3,000 - \$4,000
MS64	\$1,650 - \$2,000
MS63	\$1,000 - \$1,300
AU50	\$300 - \$500



Snow 9: Rev. T2-M. Doubling on E in ONE.

Snow-10 Low Leaves, DDR-007



Snow 10: Obv. 11: (LH) Both S's reworked.

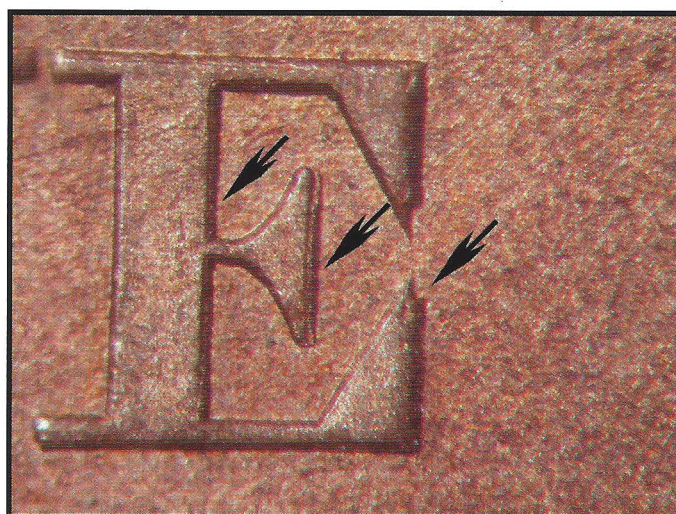


Snow 10: Rev. T2-N. Doubling on E in ONE.

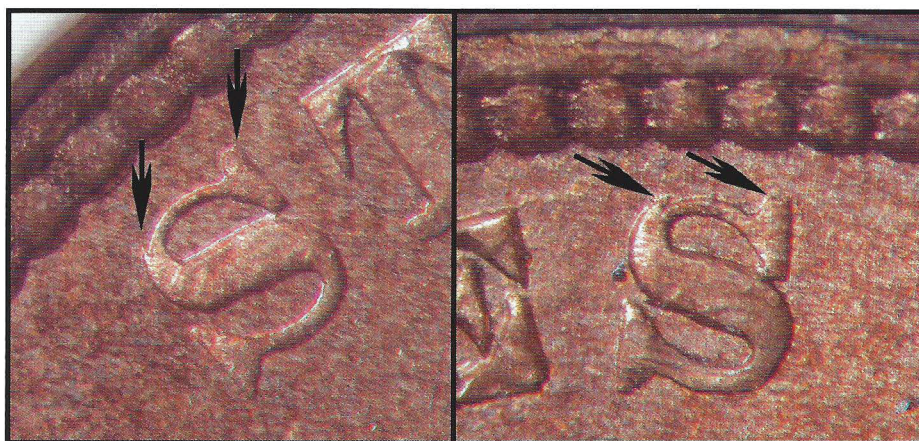
Another reworked reverse die. The E in ONE is very similar to S9, S11 and S12. Compare the areas of extra outlines. The obverse has both S's in STATES reworked. This obverse is also found on S13, but with a High Leaves reverse.

This is a one-star variety and examples in grades above MS64 will likely not get a premium.

MS65	\$3,000 - \$4,000
MS64	\$1,650 - \$2,000
MS63	\$1,000 - \$1,300
AU50	\$300 - \$500



Snow 10: Rev. T2-N: Doubling on E in ONE.



Snow 10: Obv. 11: (LH) Both S's reworked.

Snow-11 Low Leaves, DDR-008



Snow 11: Obv. 12: (B) Die crack at date.



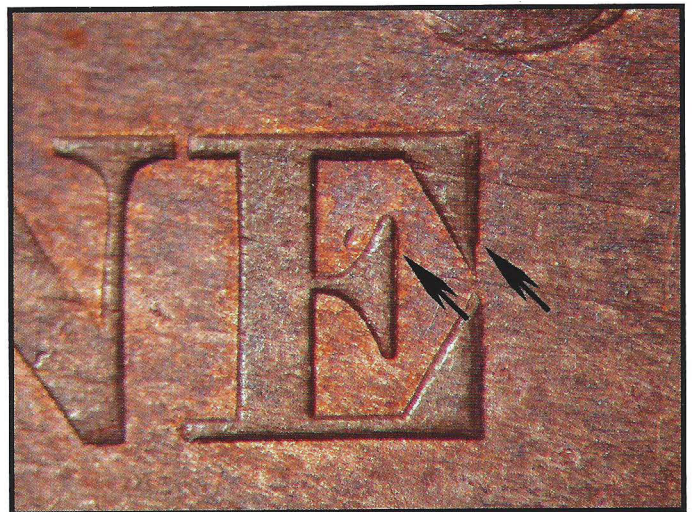
Snow 11: Rev. T2-O. Doubling on E in ONE.

Another reworked reverse die. The E in ONE is very similar to S9, S10 and S12. Compare the areas of doubling in the image. This die has extra outlines on the wreath from 4:00 to 9:00.

The obverse has a die crack that connects the MER at the top. Another die crack connects the 185.

This is a one-star variety and examples in grades above MS64 will likely not get a premium.

MS65	\$3,000 - \$4,000
MS64	\$1,650 - \$2,000
MS63	\$1,000 - \$1,300
AU50	\$300 - \$500



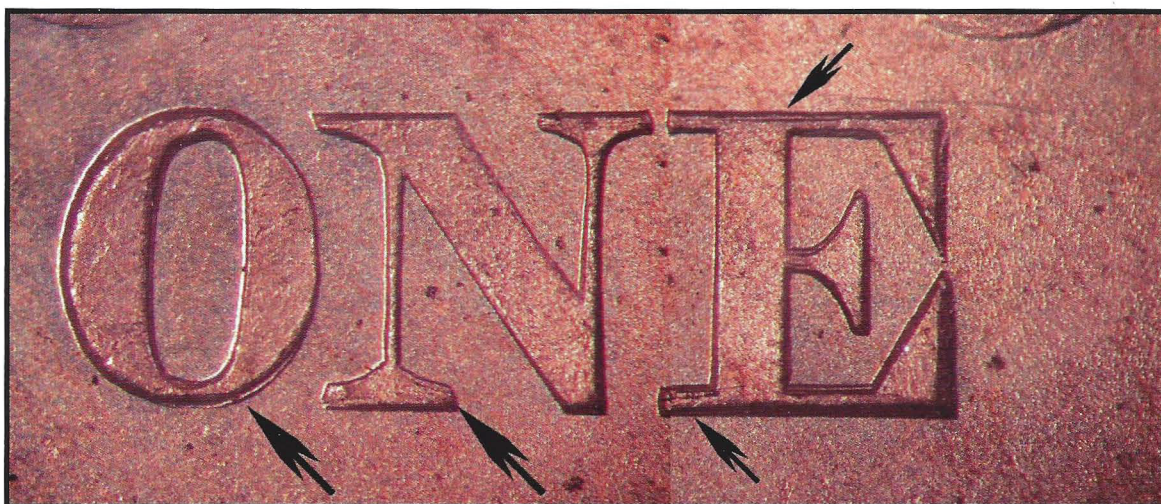
Snow 11: Rev. T2-O. Doubling on E in ONE.



Snow 12: Obv. 13: (B).



Snow 12: Rev. T2-P: Doubling on ONE.



Snow 12: Rev. T2-P/ Doubling on ONE.

Another reworked reverse die. All letters of ONE show reworking. The die is normally found with a slight die rotation, as in the image above.

This is a one-star variety and examples in grades above MS64 will likely not get a premium.

MS65	\$3,000 - \$4,000
MS64	\$1,650 - \$2,000
MS63	\$1,000 - \$1,300
AU50	\$300 - \$500

Snow-13 Doubled S & S, High Leaves

The same obverse as S10, labeled as Obv.: 11 (LH). This is much scarcer, but any premium would likely come from the High Leaves reverse first.

The reverse is designated as Rev: T1-M. Half of the ribbon bow is unpolished and there are thinner denticles from 8:00 to 11:00. Only an MS62 was reported.

MS62 \$1,500 - \$2,500



Snow 13: Obv. 11: (LH) Doubled S & S.

Snow-14 Doubled Second S. Low Leaves DDR-010



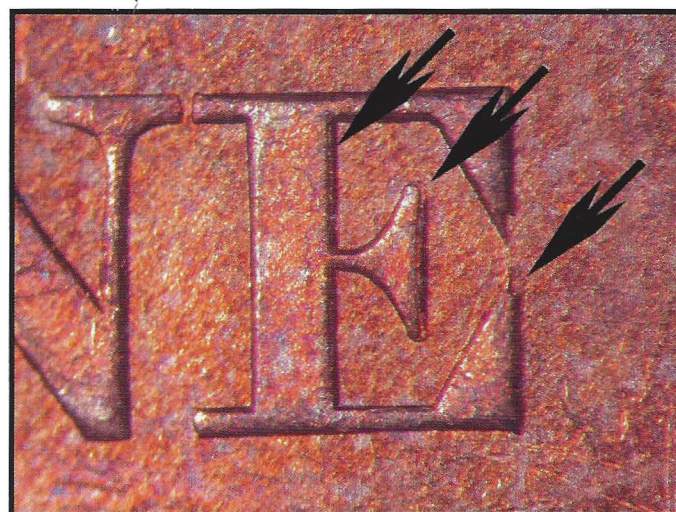
Snow 14: Obv. 8: (RH) Doubled Second S.



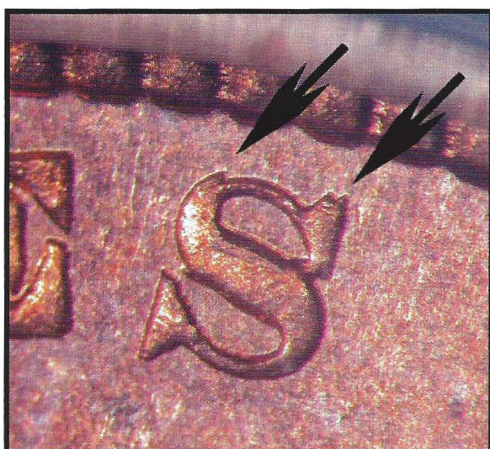
Snow 14: Rev. T2-L: Doubled die reverse

This is the same obverse die as S6 paired with the same reverse as S8. Extra outlines are visible on the right half of the wreath from 1:00 to 7:00. This is a one-star variety, so there is only a small premium for the doubled die.

MS64 \$1,700 - \$2,000



Snow 14: Rev. T1 Doubled E in ONE.



Snow 14: Obv. 8: Doubled Second S.



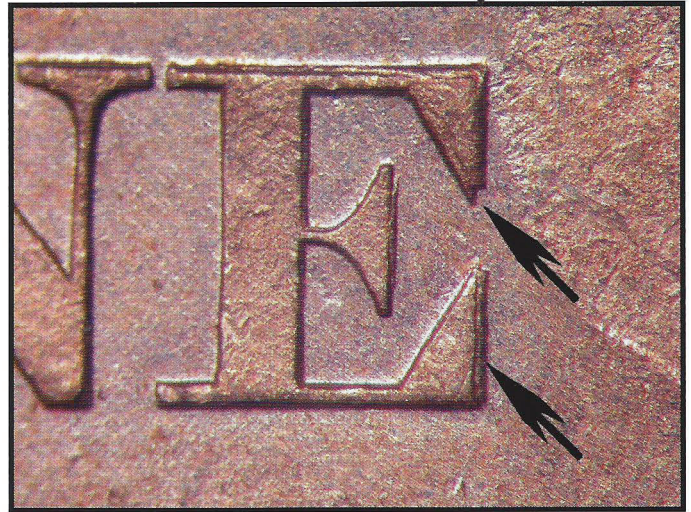
Snow 14: Obv. 8: (RH) Date area.

Snow-15 Low Leaves DDR-011

Another minor reworked reverse die. This is labeled Rev.: T2-Q. It is very similar to S9. Compare the doubling with the other Type 2 doubled dies as well. The reverse is rotated 10 degrees clockwise on the discovery example.

The obverse is labeled Obv. 14: (LH). There is a die crack from the U in UNITED to the forward fold in the eagle's left wing.

MS64 \$1,700 - \$2,000



Snow 15: Rev. T2-Q. Doubled E in ONE.

Snow-16 Doubled Second S. High Leaves.



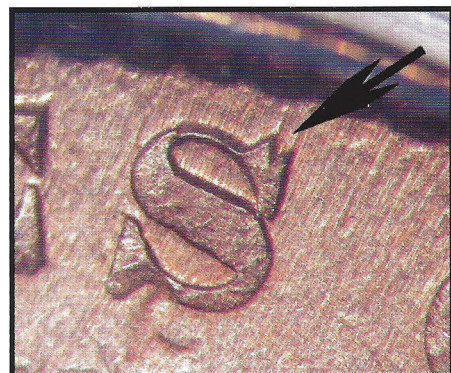
Snow 16: Obv. 15: (B) Doubled Second S.



Snow 16: Rev. T1-N. High Leaves.

Doubling on the second S in STATES. Very similar to S13. The rotation on the S is very strong. The reverse is a High Leaves reverse and this should get a premium for that as well as a small premium for the doubled S. The reverse is rotated 15 degrees clockwise.

MS64 \$2,500 - \$3,500



Snow 16: Obv. 15: (B) Doubled Second S.

Snow-17 Low Leaves DDR-012

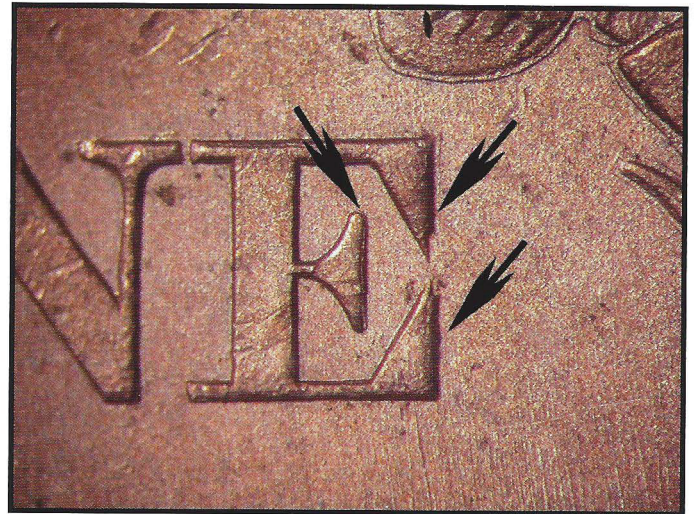
Another minor reworked reverse die. This is labeled Rev. T2-R. Compare the doubling with the other Type 2 doubled dies.

The obverse is labeled Obv. 16: (RE). There is a die polish line that connects the second S in STATES to the O in OF.

MS64 \$1,700 - \$2,000



Snow 17: Obv. 16: (RE)



Snow 17: Rev. T2-R. Doubled E in ONE.

Snow-18 Low Leaves DDR-013

Another minor reworked reverse die. This is labeled Rev. T2-S. Compare the doubling with the other Type 2 doubled dies. The extra outlines by the T in CENT can be used to identify this die.

The obverse is labeled Obv. 17: (B). A die crack from the rim at 12:30 through the final S in STATES. Additional radial die cracks from the rim at 9:00 through the N in UNITED to the eagle's left wing and from the rim at 8:30 to the eagle's beak.

MS65 \$3,000 - \$3,500



Snow 18: Rev. T2-S. Doubled E in ONE.

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Anthony Paquet's Small Eagle



In 1858, the Mint was concerned about the cent dies wearing out prematurely. The hard nickel alloy - in use for only one year - required a stronger striking power than the previous large copper cents. The stronger striking pressure needed to cause the nickel alloy to flow into the die spaces eroded or broke dies too quickly. It was hoped that if the relief of the design was lowered, the striking power could be lessened and the dies life span increased, thus saving the Mint money and time.

The Mint's Chief Engraver, James B. Longacre, and his Assistant Engraver, Anthony C. Paquet (Pronounced Pack-Aye) were tasked with the redesign project. The Flying Eagle by Longacre, in regular production since 1857 was redesigned to a lower relief. The letters of the legend were change to a smaller font. The reverse, called an "Agricultural Wreath," was also lowered in relief. Tradition ascribes the rework of these designs to Longacre, but it is probable that the work was done by Paquet. The designs are today known as the "Small Letters" obverse and "Low Leaves" reverse. These designs were put into production mid-year, but troubles with die wear continued, requiring tedious reworking of many of the dies.

To fix the problem a design competition began between the two engravers. Longacre con-

tributed an "Indian Head" which is actually a Liberty head with Indian feathers, and Paquet contributed a Small Eagle design. Longacre's Indian head attacked the metal flow problem by moving the obverse die cavity to the center of the die and the reverse die cavity to the outer areas. Paquet went a bit farther in his eagle design by moving the obverse device to the center and making the relief very shallow.

In addition to the 'Low Leaves' Agricultural wreath for a reverse design, the two engravers made three other wreaths – an Ornamental shield over an Oak wreath, a plain Oak Wreath and a Laurel Wreath. All are traditionally ascribed to the work of Longacre, but Paquet may have worked on some of these as well.

Together, these die pairs made a 12-piece set of patterns. The Mint assembled about 75 of these sets and sold them to the collecting public for the next few



1858 Pattern Cent Designs

years. This was the initial source for the 1858 Small Letters Proof issue. Some of the die pairing proved popular and were struck in larger quantities for individual sale to collectors.

Longacre's Indian head and the Laurel wreath were modified slightly. The Indian head design was made sharper and is identified easily as having a narrow bust point. The Laurel wreath was changed by centering the wreath in the coin and giving it bunches of six leaves instead of five. Both revised designs were adopted in 1859.

Paquet's Small Eagle design was only used for the 12-piece sets and few, if any of the die combinations were struck in quantities greater than the initial 75 for the sets. Because of this, they make a neat four-piece set that is fairly easy to assemble. A fifth die pair, using the six-leaf Laurel wreath, is the only difficult coin to find.

Paquet was born in Hamburg, Germany in 1814 and he emigrated to America in 1848, along with many other Germans who came to America

to escape the persecutions that followed the failed revolutions of that year. He settled in New York City from 1850 to 1855 where he became associated with the Mint through special projects, such as making device and letter punches for Longacre. He was named Assistant Engraver to the Mint in October, 1857. He remained at the Mint until 1864. He died in 1882.

His medals for the Mint are numerous and include: The Fremont medal (1856), The Snowden medal (1859), Washington Cabinet Commencement

medal (1859), Washington Cabinet Inauguration medal (1860), The George Meade medal (1863). After leaving the Mint, Paquet was often offered work, including the George F. Robinson medal (1873).

Paquet made numerous other patterns for coins during his time at the Mint. The only works that saw regular production was his failed design for the Double Eagle (1861), the Small Letters Flying Eagle cent and the 1859 half dime.



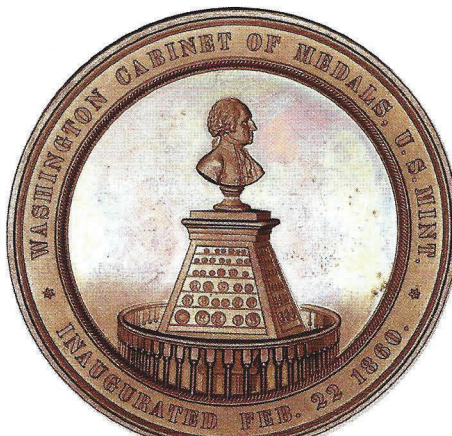
1859 James Ross Snowden Medal. 79 mm

Only one Small Eagle die is known. By tracking the die polishing on the Small Eagle design along with the die pairings that were made, we may be able to form a rough idea about the production of the 12-piece sets. The listings in the Attribution Guide (Snow) are S-PT16 through S-PT20 and in the Judd reference, J-202 though J-206. The die pairs struck are as follows:



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

1860 Washington Cabinet Inauguration. 59mm



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



1861-S Paquet Double Eagle

Die combinations of the Small Eagle die.



*S-PT16, J-206 Agricultural Wreath (Low Leaves)
S-16b, J-207 Copper.
S-16d, J-207a Nickel*



*S-PT17, J-204 Ornamented Shield
S-PT17b, J-205 Copper*



S-PT18, J-203 Plain Oak wreath



S-PT19, J-202a Five Leaf Laurel



S-PT20, J-202b Six Leaf Laurel

Die states of the Small Eagle die.

Die stage A1. The die started out highly polished with very deep mirrors and frosted devices. There are heavy die striation visible when the coins is tilted in the light. There is no die flaw under the date.

This die state produced most of the cameo designated pieces. There may be examples that lost their mirrored surface due to mishandling or environmental mishaps.



*Die Stage A-1
Polished fields with die striations 10:30 to 4:30.*



Small Eagle Die Stage A2
No Flaw under 85. No Die Striations.

Die Stage A2: The striations are gone and the fields are lightly mirrored to dull.



Small Eagle Die Stage A3
No Flaw under 85. Die Striations 10:00 to 5:00.

Die Stage A3: The die is polished again, this time with die striations from 10:00 to 5:00.



Small Eagle Die Stage B1
Flaw under 85. Polished field, No Striations.

Die Stage B1: A die flaw is noticeable under the date. In the earliest state, it has a polished field with no die striations.



Small Eagle Die Stage B2
Flaw under 85. Mirrors weaken to none.

Die Stage B2: Mirrors weaken to dull or no mirrors at all. This is a gradual transition from B1.

Die states seen

Die Pair	Est. Mintage	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2
<i>S-PT16, J-206 Low Leaves</i>	75	3	10	2	1	-
<i>S-PT16b, J-207 Low Leaves, Cu</i>	2	-	-	-	-	-
<i>S-PT16d, J-207a Low Leaves, Ni</i>	2	-	-	-	2	-
<i>S-PT17, J-204 Ornamented Shield</i>	75	5	16	4	4	3
<i>S-PT17b, J-205 Ornamented Shield, Cu</i>	3	-	-	-	2	-
<i>S-PT18, J-203 Plain Oak wreath</i>	75	3	12	2	4	6
<i>S-PT19, J-202a Five Leaf Laurel</i>	75	3	13	4	5	1
<i>S-PT20, J-202b Six Leaf Laurel</i>	15	-	-	-	7	5

From examples seen, it is possible to piece together a likely time line for the striking of the 12-piece pattern sets. Rather than striking the entire mintage of each die pair at once, it is obvious that there were at least four, possibly five distinct striking periods where the sets were built. The dies were switched out for each group.

Initially between five and ten sets were made while the dies were new and highly mirrored. Later, an additional 25 to 30 sets were struck as the mirrors began to fade. The die was taken out and given a high polish again. After this another five to ten sets were struck.

At this point, after at least forty sets were struck, the die was damaged at the 6:00 position. From then on it was polished again and another fifteen or so were struck. The introduction of the Six-Leaf Laurel wreath was made at this time. This reverse was not a replacement for the Five-Leaf Laurel wreath as it was struck in similar quantities. The various patterns in metals other than 12% nickel were struck at this time.

This is only one side of a multi-dimensional puzzle involving four obverse designs and five reverse designs. We are lucky that only one Small Eagle die was used and only one reverse die for each design was used. One question we cannot answer is when the last pieces for the 12-piece pattern sets were struck. It could be assumed that coins were struck into 1859 as additional pieces were desired. There are also patterns dated 1859 using the same reverses. These are not earlier die states of the 1858 pairings, so we know there was not widespread restriking.

Trying to do a die state progression is complicated when there are multiple dies. Two dies were used for the Small Letters obverse design and three for the Broad Bust Indian head design. Of the reverse dies used, only the Oak wreath, Five-leaf laurel wreath and Six-leaf laurel wreath combinations are known to be struck from a single die. Three dies are known to have struck each of the Low Leaves and Ornamented Shield die combinations. When we do a die study of these dies we will come closer to the actual striking order of this complicated set.

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Clashed dies on a 1857 cent.

By Richard Snow

In my capacity as Attributor for Flying Eagle and Indian Cents for CONECA, I was sent this curious 1857 Flying Eagle with clash marks on the obverse. The claim was that the clash is not from the Agricultural wreath reverse die, as would be expected, but from the similar three dollar reverse die!

If it could be proven that the clash is another denomination, it would immediately be a highly valued variety. The coin in question is a XF grade coin with some light corrosion in places.

First off, the corrosion is a problem when attributing a new variety. Corrosion moves metal and can alter the surfaces considerably. It is not too extensive on this coin, so we will continue with the examination and try to figure this coin out.

The clash in question is above the eagle's right wing. It is likely caused by the ribbon bow from a reverse die. But is the reverse die a cent die or a three dollar die?



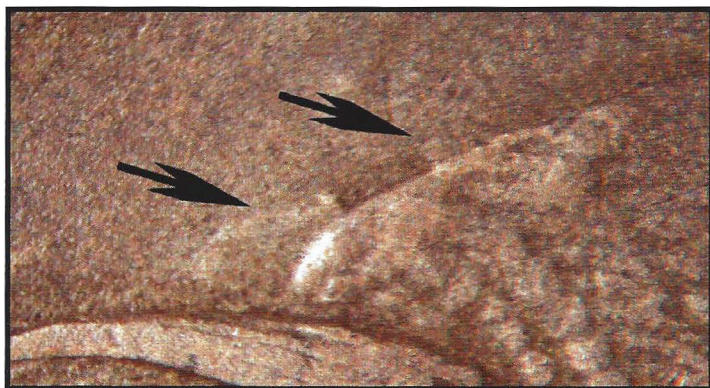
1857 With clashed die.



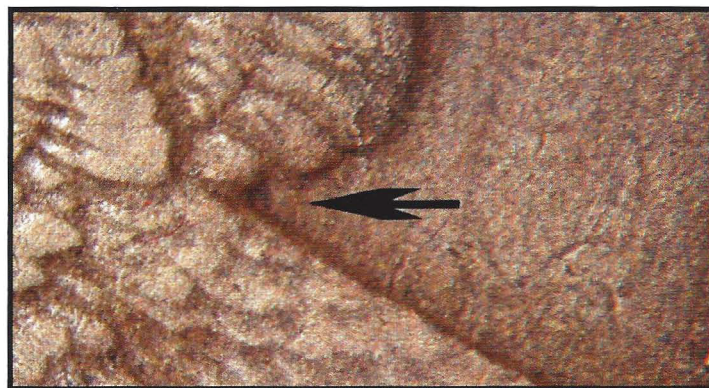
1857 Cent Reverse (inverted).



1857 Three Dollar Reverse (inverted).



1857 With clashed die.



1857 With clashed die.



1857 Overlay with Cent Reverse

The cent has a diameter of 19 mm and the three dollar die is 20.5 mm. These are very close in size and their designs are very similar. This makes an absolute determination about the source of the clash very difficult. I created two overlays - one with the cent die and another with the three dollar die. It was important to maintain the exact size on the multi-denominational overlay.

The overlays reveal the similarities between the designs. The ribbon on the wreath is in the same above the eagle's right wing on both overlays, but shaped slightly different. I am assuming the dies are perfectly aligned and not off-center. It is very unusual to have an off-center clash while the dies are in the press. All off-center clash marks seen to-date show denticles on the field area and are believed to be made outside the press. These are not what we are seeing here.

The best case for the clash being from a three dollar die is the raised area in the notch between the eagle's right wing and the tail. It matches the D in DOLLAR. The trouble is, the grade and corrosion on the coin, does not show conclusively that there an actual clash in this area. It could be part of the effects of the corrosion.

There are differences in the location of some of the design elements that might be conclusive one way



1857 Overlay with Three Dollar Reverse.

or the other. It does not look like the clash above the eagle's right wing matches either design perfectly.

The best case for this not being a three dollar die clash is the fact that the die settings used for the Flying Eagle were different from any other denomination. The die settings for the Flying Eagle has the obverse in the anvil position and the reverse in the hammer position. If the three dollar dies follow all other die settings in use at the time, the reverse would be in the anvil position and the obverse in the hammer position.

With these dies settings, we would expect to see an obverse to obverse clash rather than a obverse to reverse clash that we see here. In fact all other Flying Eagle multi-denominational clashes show obverse to obverse or reverse to reverse for this very reason. I don't see why the three dollar dies would be any different.

At this point we have to leave this attribution as undetermined. Please keep an eye out for a high grade and problem free example. Please send it to me if you have one.

Thanks to Paul Hanan, CONECA Wisconsin State Representative, for submitting the coin. If this is found to be a three dollar clash, he will get credit for its discovery. We'll have to wait and see.

1858 Small Letters



S2 1858 SL, Enhanced Letters.

S2 1858 SL, Low Leaves.
Enhanced letters.

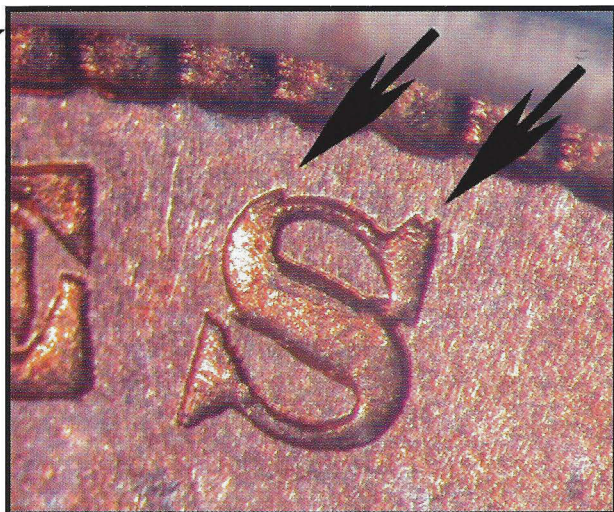
Obv. 18: (RH) The letters UNITED S__T__S OF AMER__ have been strengthened. The work was done after the lettering wore down from extensive use.

Rev. T2-T: Die crack from the rim at 2:30 to the top tobacco leaf.
Attributed to: Rick Snow

This is a well worn die that was reworked to make it usable again. Some of the letters were repunched. The variety designation only applies to the late die state.

The original listing of S2 was delisted as it was found to be an early die state of S1. {65}

1858 Small Letters



S14 1858 SL, Doubled Second S.

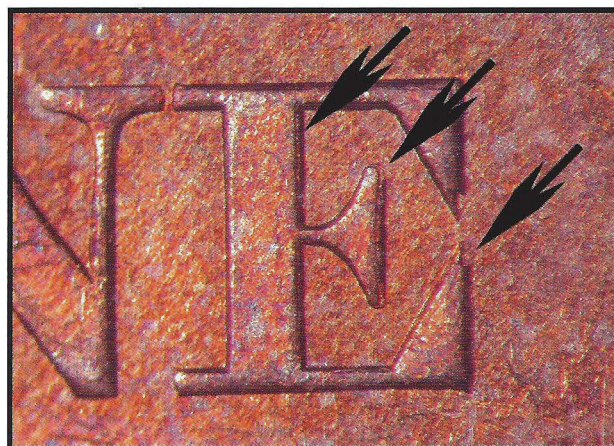
S14 1858 SL, Low leaves. Doubled Second S, Doubled Die Reverse.

Obv. 8:(RH) Repunched second S in STATES.

Rev. T2-L: Moderate doubling visible on the middle and lower serifs of the E in ONE. Extra outlines visible on the right half of the wreath from 1:00 to 7:00. Outlines also on the right half of the E in ONE and the T in CENT.

Attributed to: Doug Wright

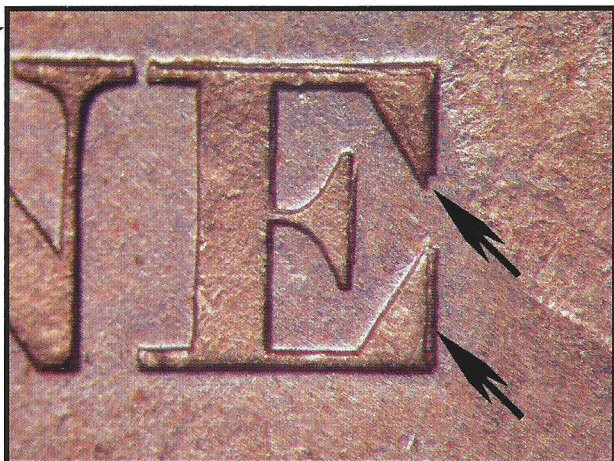
Same obverse as S6 and same reverse as S8. Compare with S6, S8 as well as S10 and S13. {64}



S14 1858 SL, Doubled E.



S14 1858 SL, Doubled Second S.



S15 1858 SL, Doubled E.

S15 1858 SL, Low leaves. Doubled Die Reverse.

Obv. 14:(LH) Die crack from U in UNITED to the forward fold in the eagle's right wing.

Rev. T2-Q: Moderate doubling visible on the right edge of the lower serif of the E in ONE and on the inside of the upper serif. Minor doubling on the center serif.

Attributed to: Doug Wright

Very similar reverse to S9. The slight differences are evident by comparing the images. Also compare with other similar varieties listed. Reverse rotated clockwise 10 degrees on the discovery coin. {64}

1858 Small Letters

S16 1858 SL, High leaves.

Doubled Second S.

Obv. 15:(B) The second S in STATES is repunched. The secondary S is rotated clockwise.

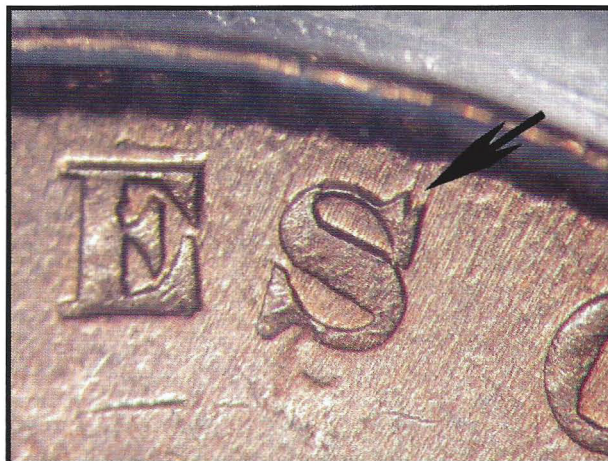
Rev. T1-N: Ribbon ends just away from the denticles.

Attributed to: Doug Wright

Very similar reverse to S13. There is doubling only on the second S and there is a stronger rotation between impressions. Reverse rotated 15 degrees clockwise. {64}



S16 1858 SL, Date area.



S16 1858 SL, Doubled S.

S17 1858 SL, Low Leaves.

Doubled Die Reverse.

Obv. 16: (RE) Die polishing line connects the final S in STATES with the O in OF.

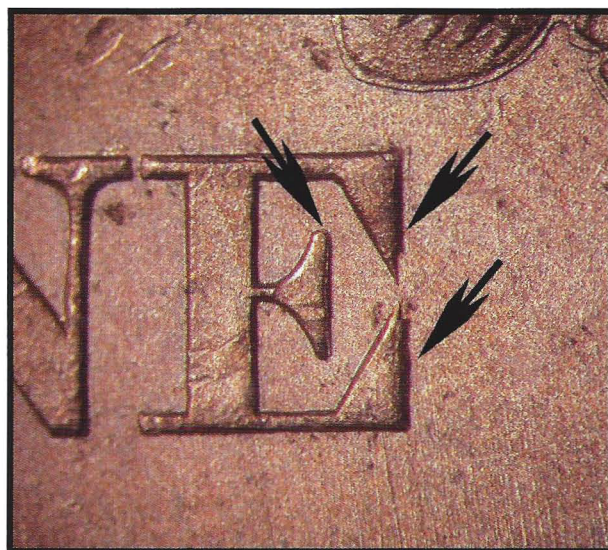
Rev. T2-R: Doubling on the E in ONE mostly visible on the right edges of all serifs of the E.

Attributed to: Doug Wright

Another example of a reworked die. Compare the image with others. {64, 64}



S17 1858 SL, Date area.



S17 1858 SL, Doubled E.

1858 Small Letters



S18 1858 SL, Doubled E.

S18 1858 SL, Low Leaves.

Doubled Die Reverse.

Obv. 17: (B) Late die state: Die crack from the rim at 12:30 through the final S in STATES. Additional radial die cracks from the rim at 9:00 through the N in UNITED to the eagle's left wing and from the rim at 8:30 to the eagle's beak.

Rev. T2-S: Doubling on the E in ONE mostly visible on the right edges of the bottom serif. Strong extra outlines on the wreath from 12:00 to 9:00 as well as on the base of the T in CENT. Later die state: rim breaks from 6:00 to 10:00.

Attributed to: Doug Wright

Another reworked die. Compare the image with others. The bold extra outlines on the T should be diagnostic. {65}

1860 Rounded Bust

S7 1860 T2, 6/6 (s).

Obv. 10: (RE) Bold repunching visible inside the lower loop of the 6. Remnants of the repunching are visible between the date and the denticles, but it appears as a rough area.

Rev. R: Olive leaf and shield points are well away from the denticles. Light clash mark inside the right wreath.

Attributed to: Stewart Baskin

Very strong repunching. The rough area from die work by the die maker. {66}



S7 1860 T2, 6/6 (s).

1865 Fancy 5



S20 1865 Fancy 5, Digit in denticles.

S20 1865 Fancy 5, Digit in denticles.

Obv. 21: (RE) The top of a digit is visible sticking above the denticles under the 5 in the date. Extra outlines on portrait, legend from 2:00 to 7:00.

Rev. AK: Olive leaf and shield points well away from the denticles. Die crack connects the right wreath and the shield.

Attributed to: Vic Bozarth

A minor misplaced digit variety, but since it extends into the field, it is more interesting. {64RB}

1873 Close 3

S3 1873 Close 3, Digit in denticles.

Obv. 4: (LE) The top of a digit is visible in the field above the denticles below the 7 in the date. The digit is curved, likely an 8 or 3.

Rev. N: Shield points and olive leaf just away from the denticles. There is a die crack from the left wreath to the shield.

Attributed to Vic Bozarth.

This seems to be a scarce variety as it went undetected for many years. {63RB}



S3 1873 Close 3, Digit in Denticles.

1906



S64 1906, 906/906 (s).

S65 1906, 1/1 (s), 6/6 (s).

Obv. 66: (LE) Minor repunching on the base of the 1 repunching inside the upper loop of the 6.

Rev. BP: Shield points and olive leaf well away from the denticles. Die crack from the rim at 8:00 to the base of the wreath.

Attributed to: Quent Hansen

Very similar to S55. Compare date positions. {60BN}

1907

S65 1907, 90/90 (n).

Obv. 67: (RH) Repunching visible in the lower loop of the 9. Additional minor repunching inside the base of the 0.

Rev. BJ: Right shield point attached to the denticles. Left shield point just away. Olive leaf away.

Attributed to: Quent Hansen

The repunching is similar to S19. {55}



S65 1907, 90/90 (n).

S66 1907, 7/7 (s).

Obv. 68: (C) Minor repunching visible under the flag of the 7. Deformed denticles under the 1.

Rev. BK: Shield points and olive leaf well away from the denticles.

Attributed to: Quent Hansen

The repunching is similar to S38. Compare date positions. The deformed denticles should be diagnostic. {58}



S66 1907, 7/7 (s).

S67 1907, 9/9 (e).

Obv. 69: (C) Repunching visible to the right of the ball of the 9.

Rev. BL: Right shield point connected to the denticles. Left shield point and olive leaf away.

Attributed to: Quent Hansen

The repunching is similar to S61. Compare date positions. {64RB}



S67 1907, 9/9 (e).



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